

JOHN 7 AND THE GOSPEL – May 15, 2022

We're going through the gospel of John and are learning about Jesus and the gospel of Jesus. John 7:1. There was about a 6-month gap between ch. 6 and ch. 7. During that time, Jesus had traveled from the SE part of Israel to the NE part of Israel, and now he was in Galilee, which was in the north central part. He had done some miracles, was teaching the people, but the main thing he was doing was making disciples, was spending time with the 12 apostles.

John 7:2-5. The Feast of Booths was at hand, and Jesus' brothers, who were not yet saved, encouraged Him to go to the feast so people could see Him and His miracles. They, like many Jews, thought He might be the King, and if He was to be the King, He needed to make public appearances, get Himself before the crowds, and promote Himself.

- John 7:6. Jesus knew His purpose at that time was not to be a King, but rather to die for the sins of people, which would take place during the Feast of the Passover, in about 6 months. God, as we know, has His perfect time for everything, whether it's in this world, the church, or your life. And now God is orchestrating events in this world, leading up to the time when His Son returns to rapture the church, and then set up His kingdom on this earth. Eph. 1:9-11

John 7:7. One of the main reasons unbelievers hate Christians is that we tell them about their sin, and that their deeds are evil. Most sinners like it when we love them, when we're kind to them, but they don't like it when we tell them they're sinning, that they're sinners. Sinners want to sin and don't want anyone telling them that their sin is wrong. Jn. 15:18-23

John 7:8-10. Jesus tells His brothers to go up to the feast themselves. He does not want to join them in what would be a large caravan of people heading from the Galilean region to Jerusalem. Again, Jesus knew that His time had not yet fully come, referring to that time when He would be in Jerusalem, and would die to pay for the sins of people. Shortly after this time, Jesus went up secretly with His disciples. I believe this is when He went through Samaria, which meant that He wouldn't be traveling with other Jews, for most Jews would not even think of stepping foot in Samaria. Luke 9:51-56

John 7:11-13. The Jews looked for Jesus at the Feast. Jesus was famous, a big celebrity in Israel, a popular figure among most Jews, but not so popular among some others. That's obvious by what we read here, for there was a lot of grumbling and murmuring going on - people talking among themselves about Jesus, some saying He was a good man, and others saying He was evil, that He was leading people astray.

- One reason the people were murmuring, weren't speaking openly, was because the Sanhedrin, the official ruling body of the Jews, had not yet made a formal judgment about Jesus. The average Jew was afraid of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish leadership, and what they might do to them if they came out and said something about Jesus. And the people, taking their cues from the Sanhedrin, weren't openly saying anything either.

John 7:14-17. Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and went to the temple, and it was the middle of the week, about the 3rd or 4th day, and immediately He began to teach. And remember, the main thing Jesus did was teach. Jn. 20 tells us about Mary Mag. meeting Jesus after He had been raised from the dead, and the 1st thing she said to Him was Rabboni, which means teacher. Of course, Jesus did miracles, but teaching the crowds and His disciples was the number one thing He did, and the most important thing that He did.

Now the Jews were amazed at how good of a teacher He was. But He wasn't just good, He was perfect. Every word He said was the perfect word, and every word He spoke was perfectly said. He taught with power, authority, and conviction. He always shared the truth. And He always shared exactly what people needed to hear. And the Jews couldn't figure out why He was such a good teacher, for He hadn't gone to the school for Rabbis. And Jesus, with great humility, tells them that what He was teaching was just what His Father had taught Him. John 8:28, 12:49-50

Jesus then says something very important. He says that if we're willing to do God's will, if we humble ourselves before His word which contains His will, and are willing to do what God wants, then we'll know for certain that Jesus' teaching is from God Himself. We will have the confidence and assurance that this Bible, this book, is God's word. The lesson for us is that we should be willing to do God's will, whatever He says. And if we do God's will, if we obey Him, then we'll have great assurance from God, a close relationship with God, and we'll be a growing and fruitful Christians. John 14:21, 23

John 7:18. Jesus is not speaking from Himself, He's not just saying what He wants to say, but only what His Father tells Him to say. And He's seeking God's glory. He's not out for His own glory, but for the glory of His Father. Jesus' desire is to do His Father's will so that His Father gets lots of glory, honor, and praise. John 17:1-4, Phil. 2:9-11
- And Jesus tells us that His Father is true, which means His Father is the source of all truth, all spiritual truth, all physical truth, all truth about everything, and therefore His Father speaks the truth, and therefore His word, which focuses on spiritual truth, is true. And His Father is perfectly righteous, for the Father always does what is right, and never does what is wrong.

John 7:19-20. Jesus is direct, gets right to the point, tells them what they need to hear. Jesus talks about the Law of Moses. Now one purpose of the Law was to tell the Jews how to live, but another purpose was to expose their sin, to help them see that they couldn't keep the Law, and therefore, were sinners. By saying this, Jesus is telling these Jews that they're sinners, and therefore needed Him to be their Savior, the only One who could save them from their sins, that is, forgive them.

Then Jesus asks them why they're trying to kill Him. They answer Him by saying He had a demon, which was a terrible and totally wrong thing to say. "*Who seeks to kill You?*" is what these hypocrites said back to Him. Here they were the devilish ones, and He was the perfect One, the one who would be killed, and by His death, defeat sin, defeat death, defeat the devil, and make them perfectly holy and righteous.

John 7:21-24. Jesus is referring to the man He had healed on the Sabbath, one who'd been ill for 38 years, and He did it on the Sabbath. The Jewish leaders didn't like that. They had all these rules about what could be done on the Sabbath and healing someone wasn't on the list. Jesus then makes the point that if they could circumcise a child on the Sabbath, if they could cleanse one part of the body, then why couldn't He heal the entire body. And Jesus was right again. He was trying to help them see their sin, their self-righteousness. The Jewish religious leaders did things for show, they did things for appearance's sake, were virtue signaling, but their hearts were wrong, were full of pride, and they were hypocrites.

John 7:25-27. Many of the leaders wanted to kill Jesus, and that was to be a secret, but some of those living in Jerusalem, some of the locals, had heard about their plan. And now Jesus is publicly teaching, and knowing the leaders want to kill Him, they are wondering why he hadn't been seized yet. Now maybe the leaders could see that the people were really interested in hearing what Jesus had to say. Maybe they were afraid of debating and challenging Him in public. Maybe they thought there'd be a riot if they seized Him, and they wanted to wait to get Him when He was alone. For whatever the reason, they didn't go after Him right then.

Now some were thinking that maybe this man was the Christ and therefore the leaders didn't want to go after Him. But then right away, this idea is discarded, for they say that no one knows where Christ is from. In all this, you get the sense that the Jewish people were really confused. For we know that it had been predicted that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, in Judea, and then raised in Galilee, and that's exactly what happened.

John 7:28-29. Jesus was crying out, was raising His voice, for He wanted everyone in that temple area to hear Him, not just the people standing in front. And why? Because what He had to say was extremely important. The people had just been talking about who He was and where He was from. And this is Jesus' answer, that they do know Him and where He is from. I believe He was saying that many people did know where He was physically from, from Nazareth, and Bethlehem, and if others would do a little research, they too would know His physical origins.

But there's more than just Jesus' physical origins, for He wasn't just a man. He was the Son of God, and that's what He wanted the Jews to know, the leaders included. He says He didn't come of Himself. Jesus being on earth wasn't His idea, wasn't His plan, but that of His Father. And Jesus had talked about this already. Jn 3:17; 6:30-32. 37

And so the Father sent Jesus. And by saying His Father had sent Him, Jesus was saying that He had a Father, and that He knew His Father, and that His Father had a purpose for sending His Son to earth, and that He was willing to come to earth to fulfill that purpose. But here's another important point. John 3:13, 17, 31. That Jesus was sent from heaven meant that His Father was God, and that His Father was His heavenly Father. And that God was His heavenly Father meant that Jesus was the Son of God, and in fact, now God in the flesh. for He was both God and man. John 7:28

Jesus again says that His Father is true, which means that His Father always spoke the truth. God had said many things in the Old Testament about His Son, and the purpose He had for Him. And all these things were true and all His predictions about His Son were true as well. - Not only that, but Jesus was speaking for His Father, was His representative on earth, and was therefore always speaking the truth. John 1:14-17, Heb. 1:1-3

Then Jesus cries out to the people that they do not know Him. Whereas Jesus had just said that they physically knew who He was and where He was from, He was now saying that they didn't know the Father, didn't have a relationship with Him. - John 8:19. Here Jesus is saying that they didn't know Him or the Father, and He's talking in a spiritual sense. And it's true that whoever knows the Son knows the Father, and whoever knows the Father knows the Son. This is the beauty, blessing, the truth of Christianity, that knowing God means we know the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit too. Jn. 14:9, 17:3

John 7:29. Jesus is saying loud and clear that He knows the Father, that He has this loving and eternal relationship with the heavenly Father. They'd been together since eternity past and will be into eternity future. And that Jesus says He knows the Father and that they don't know Him was saying that they weren't saved, were unbelievers, and were still in their sins. - John 7:30-31. Now the Jews who were there, especially the leading Jews, were really mad when they heard that, and they wanted to seize Him, and wanted to kill Him, but His time had not yet come. And here's the good news - *"many of the crowd believed in Him."*